

Make It A
Merry Christmas

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OVERHOLSER RESIGNS AS MAYOR

Gas Shortage Threatened Here If Temperature Falls

BYRON SHEAR TO FILL OUT ALL OF TERM

City Attorney Appointed to
Position of City Head.

NO CHANGES ANNOUNCED

Police Unaffected So Far as
Overholser Is Concerned.

Mayor Ed Overholser announced his resignation at a meeting of the city commission held this afternoon in the city council chamber.

Byron Shear, city attorney for a number of years, was chosen by the city commissioners to succeed him.

The reason for Mr. Overholser's resignation was ill health following a recent attack of influenza. He felt that he was unable to take the responsibilities of the office in his present weakened condition.

Mr. Overholser will leave shortly for Mineral Wells, Texas, upon his doctor's orders, to recuperate his health.

The police department and other departments under control of the mayor will be unaffected by his resignation so far as Overholser himself is concerned, he said following the meeting. Whether the new mayor will make any changes was not announced. The mayor's term of office will expire early in 1919.

GUARD ARMY TO BE WIPED OUT

Militia Troops Lose Status,
War Office Rules.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 24.—An opinion of the judge-advocate general's office approved by the secretary of war, holds that officers and enlisted men of the national guard will revert to civilian status when discharged from the federal service. The effect of the ruling practically is to wipe out of existence the national guard as it was organized prior to the war.

The opinion, rendered by Brig. Gen. Samuel T. Ansell, who has been acting judge-advocate general since Major General Crowder was appointed provost marshal general to handle the draft, was made public today by the war department.

General Ansell, chief of staff, on December 20, asked for an opinion as to the status of members of the national guard subsequent to their discharge from the federal service. His memorandum called attention to a digest of an opinion of the judge-advocate general dated January, 1918, in which it was said that when the guardsmen were "mustered out" of the federal service they would revert to their militia status and also to their status in the national guard.

General Ansell, in his decision, pointed out that this opinion was based upon muster out and not upon discharge, and adds:

"As a matter of fact, the opinion in the digest in which this sentence occurs, holds without qualification that the draft of a member of the national guard into the federal service abso-

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ARMY TO PROBE RECORDS OF "Y"

WASHINGTON, Dec. 24.—Wide-spread complaints by homecoming soldiers of exorbitant charges for services in Y. M. C. A. canteens overseas will be referred to the war department for investigation.

SANTA'S BEST GIFT TO LOCAL KIDS—A WHITE CHRISTMAS



More than five inches of snow have fallen in Oklahoma City within the last forty-eight hours, and weather forecasts which predict still colder weather for tonight indicate that it will remain on the ground for Christmas. This scene was taken yesterday during the height of the snowstorm at the corner of Fourteenth street and Hudson, looking south. A group of three boys is shown in the middle of the street enjoying the first real snowfalling of the year. How the wet snow clung to the branches of the trees can be seen in the picture.

PARDON POLICY MAKES CONVICTS BETTER—MORLEY

State Warden Says Discipline
at Prison Improves.

McLESTER, Okla., Dec. 24.—(Special)—Inspired by Governor Williams' parole policy of rewarding good conduct with clemency, every man in the penitentiary here will begin the new year with a firm resolution to live exemplary prison lives, according to Warden S. L. Morley.

Value Inestimable.

"It is impossible to estimate the value Governor Williams' policy has been to us in maintaining discipline in the prison," said Mr. Morley.

"I believe discipline in the prison here is equal to if not better than in any other prison in the United States. This is due in no measure to the hope Governor Williams' policy has inspired.

"No matter what ideas persons may have on the use of pardoning and parole power, you simply can not destroy hope in a man who is in prison. When you destroy hope the man becomes desperate. No amount of control, no matter how stringent, will make anything else out of him. He must be made to know that hope is not dead; that although he has erred, the world is not against him, and that by his own conduct he can prove himself worthy of being restored to his former place among his fellow men.

None Disappointed.

"Quite naturally there are some here who are disappointed at not being recipients of clemency, at this time, but they are not disheartened or discouraged. They still have hope. They will enter the new year with a firm resolve to conduct themselves in such way as will merit clemency later on.

The governor's policy has done more toward solving the problem of prison discipline and of reforming these unfortunate men than anything that has happened.

Edmondson on Aggie Board.

C. L. Edmondson, former state senator from Lincoln county, was appointed yesterday by Governor Williams to fill out the unexpired term on the state board of agriculture of J. A. Whitehurst of Dokey, who resigned.

ALLY NATIONS NOT TO INTERVENE IN RUSSIA

PARIS, Dec. 24.—(Havas)—Lancourps declare, are completely in accord in a decision to refuse to undertake a vast military expedition into Russia. It is considered the part of Russia herself to get together her orderly elements which when united, it is declared, will find support and practical help forthcoming from the allied nations and the American republic.

Oklahoma City Poor To Get 200 Baskets From the Great Guy

Rev. W. H. B. Urch's Hold
on Kiddies Illustrated by
Newsies on Depot Platform.

An Oklahoma City man was at the Santa Fe depot Sunday waiting for a train which was bearing his father, coming here for Christmas.

Two newsies were on the platform. One about eight years old and the other scarcely four.

"Well," asked the man, "what is Santa going to bring to your house?"

"Nothing much, I guess," was the response. "We're pretty poor."

"No Christmas at all?" asked the man. "Where do you go to church?"

"Oh," answered the newsy, "we go to Dr. Urch's church. We're going to the Community house Christmas night. And say, Mister, ain't Dr. Urch some great guy, though?"

A great "guy" indeed—and the great guy is to distribute tonight—thanks to the donors to the Times Santa Claus fund—nearly 200 baskets of food, innumerable toys and about 1,000 articles of clothing to the poor of Oklahoma City.

In addition, at 7:30 o'clock tomorrow night all the little tots of the south side of Oklahoma City who otherwise would have no real Christmas, will gather at Mr. Urch's Community house and witness a Christmas program of pantomime and feast their starved little eyes on a great, big Christmas tree covered with tinsel and toys and candy, "neverthing."

Fund Over \$3,000.

The Times Santa Claus fund went over the \$3,000 mark today, following the receipt of scores of donations ranging from \$500 to \$1. The \$500 check was given by B. B. Jones, former local oil man. He met Governor R. L. Williams in the east a few days ago and told the governor to give the check to Mr. Urch for his Community house work.

Donations brought to the Times office or mailed before 11 o'clock to-

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CHURCHES PLAN EXERCISES FOR CHILD MEMBERS

Poor of City to Be Cared For
by Many Organizations.

Churches, lodges and charitable organizations throughout the city today are symbolizing the Christmas spirit here tonight and tomorrow.

Dispensing with midnight mass tonight, St. Joseph's cathedral will celebrate pontifical high mass at 5 o'clock tomorrow morning. Right Rev. Theodore Meerscheit with full vested choir will give "Kyrie," "Gloria," "Credo" and "Agnus Dei" during the service. Low mass will be celebrated at 8:30 in the morning and high mass again at 10 o'clock.

At St. Paul's.

At St. Paul's cathedral a midnight service will herald the birth of Christ. Beginning at 11 o'clock the vested choir will render "Hark, the Herald Angels Sing, Glory to the New-Born King." A procession with lights by the choir, holy communion, followed by glorias and Christmas carols will follow.

Services at the First Methodist church will be under the auspices of the Sunday school this evening at 7:30 o'clock. Admission "free" will consist of gifts of food for the poor, to be distributed through charitable organizations tomorrow. A program of songs and addresses given around a Christmas tree bright in tinsel will precede the distribution.

Services will be conducted in the First Christian church this evening at 7:30 o'clock, when one potato will be the "price of admission." The

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SINN FEIN SCORES IN DUBLIN ELECTION

DUBLIN, Monday, Dec. 23.—The Sinn Fein scored a marked victory today by the election of Prof. John MacNeill of Dublin university as the university representatives in parliament. He received twice as many votes as Professor Conway, the nationalist candidate.

MAN BOSS SAY EF YUH
DRESSES UP YUH CN
GIT MO' BIZNESS, BUT
DE TROUBLE WID A HEAP
O' FOLKS DEY GOT T'
GIT MO' BIZNESS 'FO'
DEY CN DRESS UP!"



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LOCAL FORECAST—Generally fair and continued cold weather tonight and Wednesday. Minimum temperature tonight 6 to 12 degrees.

STATE FORECAST—Tonight fair, colder in east portion; temperature 4 to 8 degrees in north and 8 to 12 degrees in southern portion. Wednesday fair.

HOURLY TEMPERATURES.

10 p. m. 19 8 a. m. 14
11 p. m. 19 9 a. m. 15
12 midnight 18 7 a. m. 16
1 a. m. 18 8 a. m. 16
2 a. m. 18 9 a. m. 16
3 a. m. 17 10 a. m. 17
4 a. m. 17 11 a. m. 18

Snow Ranging from Nine to 24 Inches Covers Four States

Kansas City, With 12-Inch
Fall, Tied Up by Strike.

WIND PILING UP DRIFTS ALL TRAINS ARE DELAYED

Early Relief Promised by
Weather Forecasters.

KANSAS CITY, Dec. 24.—An eleven inch snow combined with a street car strike had Kansas City virtually tied up this morning but the local weather bureau today announced that the worst of the storm was over, and moderate temperatures presaged an early relief.

Southern Kansas was buried beneath a fifteen-inch snow this morning and snow ranging in depth from nine to twelve inches covered the panhandle region of Texas, Oklahoma, western Missouri and Arkansas.

Two Feet Deep in Places.

Reports from southwestern Kansas and western Oklahoma give the depth of the snowfall at some places as much as two feet. A stiff wind is piling the snow into great drifts, blocking railroads and highways. Difficulty in feeding cattle and other livestock probably will result in considerable loss.

Trains Are Delayed.

Trains from the west and southwest were reported at the union station here to be running from five to fifteen hours late and about a half a dozen trains have been annulled. Railroad service east and north of Kansas City is reported much better, trains running from two to five hours late. Snow ceased falling this morning.

Clearing in Texas In Wake of Storm

DALLAS, Texas, Dec. 24.—The weather over Texas was clearing today following a hard blizzard which was especially severe in the northwestern part of the state. Heavy snow was falling in the panhandle during the past twenty-four hours.

According to the United States weather bureau, the temperature here was 23 degrees this morning. Amarillo and Dalhart were the coldest places in Texas today, the temperature ranging around twenty degrees.

Live stock may suffer to some extent from the severe cold and snow.

Arkansas Cities Are Without Gas

FINE BLUFF, Ark., Dec. 24.—Gas for Fine Bluff, Little Rock, Hot Springs and many smaller cities in the state was cut off this morning when a 16-inch gas valve at Sulphur river, on the Louisiana line, blew out, shutting off the main of E. Arkansas Natural Gas company. Officials said the break probably would be repaired and pressure restored tonight. Many industrial plants were shut down as soon as the pressure dropped.

Henry J. Allen Ill.

WICHITA, Kan., Dec. 24.—Henry J. Allen, governor-elect of Kansas, is confined to his bed at his home here by an attack of tonsillitis.

Modern Gabriel Seeks His Evangeline to Be With Her on Christmas

Soldier-Husband Finds Wife Gone When He Returns
From Military Hospital in New York.

Tears came into his eyes, and as slowly he lifted his eyelids, he vainly he strove to whisper her name, for the accents unuttered. Died on his lips, and their motion revealed what his tongue would have spoken.

He walked up to the city desk of the Times yesterday afternoon, somewhat dazed by the clatter of typewriters and chatter of linotype machines—a tall, slim, handsome fellow wearing the khaki of Pershing's crusaders.

"I have come to ask you to find my wife," he announced simply—and his accept betrayed his Czech blood—told

that his was a double fight against autocracy, that he had been ready to battle both for his adopted homeland and for the far-away soil of his birth.

"Your name, please?" inquired the man at the desk who, perhaps, is somewhat calloused to the tragedies and comedies of life that flow through his hands in the shape of "copy."

"Frank Rozack," he replied. And then he told his story.

Until July 2, 1918, he lived the simple life of a farmer on a small tract of ground near Spencer—he and his young wife, Mary Rozack, 25 years

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Minimum Temperature of 6
to 12 for City Tonight.

ALL TRAINS ARE DELAYED

Gas Company Cuts Off In-
dustries From Its Mains.

With a minimum temperature of from 6 to 12 degrees predicted by the weather bureau for tonight and tomorrow, Oklahoma City again faces gas shortage, according to Oklahoma Gas and Electric company officials.

"Every possible precaution has been taken, but notwithstanding a shortage is probable if the temperature drops to 6 or 8 degrees above," said Manager J. P. Owens.

Industries Shut Off.

Industries of every character have been shut off since early last night in the hope of filling the mains to capacity for domestic consumption, and emergency pressure is being maintained at the pumping station of the Oklahoma Natural to tide over the crisis.

The fact that tomorrow is Christmas and that a large number of stores and other places, which come under the domestic consumption head are closed, may go a long way toward relieving the situation, according to Mr. Owens.

"So far we are in good shape. No shortage has yet been reported," he continued, "but how long this condition will last I cannot say. Everything possible is being done to maintain a sufficient supply in the lines, and while I am not absolutely certain I feel that the shortage, if one occurs, will not be as serious as they have been in the past."

Many Using Coal.

Profiting by the experience in relying exclusively on gas for fuel throughout the winter a large number of Oklahoma Cityans have installed coal heating apparatus, while others are now making an eleventh hour rush to arrange emergency heating conveniences.

Weather bureau records show the snow fall in Oklahoma City this winter in the last 48 hours has been 54 inches. There was a 5.5 inch snow in February, 1913; 26 inches in March 1913; 5.0 in January, 1918, and 6.0 in February, 1918.

Reports received here this morning by telephone, railroad and telegraphic companies show that practically every section of the state is blanketed by from two to six inches of snow. McAlester and Durant being the only points which report none. A rail which is falling at these points is expected to turn to snow before night.

Trains Are Delayed.

Rock Island passenger trains operating in and out of Oklahoma City are running from eight to ten hours behind schedule. Other lines report similar delays which is working great hardships on Christmas travelers in making connections for their homes.

Hardly a street car in Oklahoma City is running on schedule time, but heroic efforts are being made by the company to keep the lines in good shape.

Officials of the Southwest Bell Telephone company, stated this morning that there were at least 800 long distance circuits out of commission in the state, thus seriously interfering with service. There are comparatively few telephones out of commission in Oklahoma City, due to the underground equipment which is not affected by climatic conditions.

Streets Slippery.

Streets are slippery in every section of the city due to the rain which preceded the snow, and while falls have been numerous no serious accidents have been reported. Neither cold nor the condition of the streets has failed to check last minute Christmas shoppers, who are thronging downtown stores and streets. Auto and taxicab drivers are much in demand.

Reports show the snow has been heaviest in the section of the state in which it is most needed, the extreme western and panhandle country which is embraced in the Oklahoma wheat belt. In addition to the moisture it will put in the ground the snow will also be of great value in the destruction by freezing of crop-destroying insects.

CHICAGO, Dec. 24.—The storm which started in the western mid